

Reflection for Today

Today we celebrate Gaudete Sunday-Rejoice Sunday. The pink candle on our Advent wreath, signifying joy, burns bright as we fill this sacred space in joyful song because our God draws near.

Both the first reading and the Gospel provides us with the reason for our rejoicing—God is coming to save us. When Jesus comes, as he said in the Gospel, *the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.* These acts are miraculous not only in their physical healing, but in their ability to be a healing balm in our deepest need.

Even if we do not have any of the physical manifestations Jesus mentions, we are blind, lame, deaf, impoverished and in need of cleansing in our heart and spirit. These words of sacred Scripture are talking about our liberation. They are speaking to each of us— life in Christ is a life lived in liberation from that which is hindering us from being fully alive—fully aware of God’s grace, mercy and gift of life offered to each of us every day.

So consider this year to give gifts that really speak to the deepest needs of those whom you care about. Offer the gifts of hope, love, joy or peace in the form of a visit, a call or a helping hand. And let this Advent season be a time of dedication and attentiveness. As Saint Paul reminds us, *make your hearts firm, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.*

O beloved God, open my eyes that I might really and truly “see” all that you have created. Help me to respect life in all its forms, from the tiniest insect to the tallest tree, from a baby in its mother’s womb to the elderly and infirm person in a nursing home. May I both respect and reflect your divine image in all my words and actions this day. Amen.

Schedule of Masses

Monday, December 17 (Polish)

9:00 am +Souls in Purgatory (Parishioner)

Tuesday, December 18

No Mass

Wednesday, December 19 (Polish/English) -

6:30 pm *Rosary and Novena to Our Lady of*

Częstochowa

7:00 pm +Larry Lorbetskie (Godparents-Silas & Elaine)

+O błogosławieństwo i miłosierdzie Boże dla zmarłych i żyjących z Rodziny Murzias Rymarz, Kuraś i Żuraw

+Stephen Lorbetskie

(Andrew & Marlene Shulist)

Thursday, December 20

9:00 am +Lolly Shulist (Shulist Family)

Friday, December 21—St. Peter Canisius

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 3 pm to 7 pm

7:00 pm +Geraldine Lorbetskie

(Ernie & Bernadette Dudack)

+Alex Ostroskie (Knights of Columbus 16003)

+Wilfred Stoppa (Sally Kuiack)

Saturday, December 22

5:00 pm +Frank, Mary, Marcel & Jerome Lapenskie

Sunday, December 23 (Polish/English)

—4th Sunday of Advent

8:00 am +Nicholas Stamplecoskie (Rita Etmanskie)

11:00 am For all of our Parishioners

In your prayers remember:

- * Our sick and hospitalized
- * Our elderly parishioners.
- * All those at the manor, lodge and homebound.
- * Our deceased family & friends.



Ministry Assignments next Sunday

	<u>Sat, Dec 22—5:00 p.m.</u>	<u>Sun, Dec 23—11:00 a.m.</u>
Rosary	Susan Prince	Anna Burdzinski
		Emilia Sadecki
Altar Servers		Janisa Visutskie
		Aaran Visutskie
Lector	Christine Recoskie	Marilyn Glofcheskie/
		Zbigniew Mroz
E.M.	Delmar Recoskie	Gerard Blank
Ushers	Clarence Stamplecoskie	Barbara Blank
	Dominic Burchat	Henryk Bartul
	Xavier Hudder	Joanna Ropego
	Jerome Kuiack	Stanley Dombroskie
Altar Committee	Dec 21st—Dec 28th—Lillian Shulist & Julie Burchat	



Announcements

Parishioners are invited to join us for **Rosary and Novena to Our Lady of Czestochowa** on **Wed** at **6:30 pm** and **Adoration** on **Friday** beginning at **3:00 pm**.

Our **deepest sympathy** to family and friend of **Irvin Luckasavitch**, brother of Mary Bloskie. May he rest in peace

2019 Envelopes are available for pick up at the **back of the church, near elevator**. If you would like to receive a set, call parish office. Thank you for your continued generosity.

A **huge thank you** to **Vicki Kopowski** who has for many years looked after making sure our sanctuary is well cared for.

Volunteers needed to decorate church for Christmas on **Sat, Dec 22nd beginning at 10 am**.

We will soon be drawing up a new church ministries schedule. Terms of the members of the finance committee will be ending soon. The altar guild/society needs volunteers. Help make the church and liturgy in our parish one to behold by volunteering your talent. The more hands on deck, the easier it is to steer this Święta Maria ship. Talk to Fr. Roman...he is very approachable if you start by talking to him about fishing...

The parish has appointed a **Building and Property Manager**. **Raphael Smaglinski** will co-ordinate all new projects and renovations to buildings and church grounds.

The **Rosary Society** is donating **one religious calendar per family**, available at the back of the church. Any additional calendars are \$5.00 each. Please place money in envelope located beside the calendars and drop off in collection basket.

Penitential Services for Christmas:

St. Lawrence O'Toole	Sat, Dec 15 from 3:15-4:15pm
Canadian Martyr's	Mon, Dec 17 at 7 pm
St. Casimir's	Tues, Dec 18 at 7 pm
St. Andrew's	Wed, Dec 19 at 7 pm
St. Hedwig's	Fri, Dec 21 at 3:30 pm
St. Mary's	Sun, Dec 23 at 3 pm

Schedule of Upcoming Masses:

Dec 23rd	8am (English) 11 am (Polish)
Dec 24th	7 pm (English) (Children's Mass)
	Midnight Mass (Polish/English)
Dec 25th	10 am (Polish/English)
New Year's Eve	5 pm (English)
New Year's Day	9 am (English) 11 am (Polish)